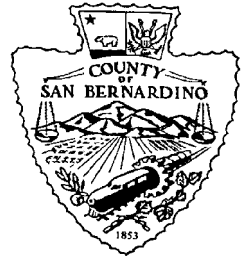


# Department of Veterans Affairs

Office Locations:

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## Agent Orange

Includes agents White, Blue, Purple & Pink.

### What is Agent Orange?

During the Vietnam conflict, the United States sprayed more than 10 million gallons of herbicide to remove dense jungle ground cover between 1962 and 1971. The project, code-named *Operation Ranch Hand*, successfully removed vegetation from an area of land roughly the size of the state of Massachusetts. To this day large areas of land have not reforested. Agent Orange was so named because it was shipped in orange-striped 55-gallon drums.



### How Many People were Exposed?

Herbicide would have flowed into rivers and streams when it rained. It was on the ground and vegetation when troops moved through an area. It is estimated that 2.4 million Americans (in addition to allied forces and the Vietnamese people) were exposed in various ways to herbicides.

### Problems?

Herbicides, such as Agent Orange, contain various forms of dioxin contaminants. Dioxin has been determined to pose health problems. Veterans' service organizations and advocacy groups, the media, the scientific community, the U.S. Government, and even individual veterans claim a host of health conditions are the result of exposure to Agent Orange. There has been a great deal of debate over the risks of dioxin exposure. Depending on which source you listen to, everything from hair loss to hemorrhoids has been blamed on herbicide exposure.

### What Conditions are Associated with Herbicide Exposure?

As the result of research and several U.S. Court decisions, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has rewritten their regulations governing Agent Orange exposure claims. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, after much research and litigation, has acknowledged TEN conditions that can be associated to herbicide exposure in the veteran and one condition in the children of an exposed veteran. These conditions are:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Soft Tissue Sarcomas (STS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Porphyria Cutanea Tarda (PCT)                | <input type="checkbox"/> Peripheral Neuropathy      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chloracne                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Prostate Cancer            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Myeloma                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes Mellitus          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cancer of lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea | <input type="checkbox"/> Hodgkin's Disease          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)           |   |

- \* Spina Bifida - (for disabled children of Agent Orange exposed veterans)
- \* Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Born with Certain Birth Defects.
- \* Separate Fact Sheet #20.

## What are the Conditions?

1. **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma (NHL)**  
The term Non-Hodgkin's is used to describe a group of malignant tumors that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.
2. **Porphyria Cutanea Tarda (PCT) [MUST OCCUR WITHIN 1 YEAR OF EXPOSURE.]**  
A liver dysfunction characterized by thinning and blistering of the skin particularly in sun-exposed areas of the body.
3. **Chloracne [MUST OCCUR WITHIN 1 YEAR OF EXPOSURE]**  
Skin condition that looks like common forms of acne that affects teenagers. However, the acne may result in flaking or peeling skin and in severe cases in open sores and permanent scars. It is often difficult for even dermatologists to distinguish chloracne from common forms of acne.
4. **Multiple Myeloma**  
This is a cancer of the bone marrow, which is also known as plasma cell myeloma.
5. **Cancer of lung, bronchus, larynx, or trachea**  
The above four forms of respiratory cancers have been approved.
6. **Hodgkin's Disease**  
A malignant lymphoma (tumor of the lymphatic tissue) characterized by progressive anemia and enlargement of the lymph nodes.
7. **Soft Tissue Sarcomas (STS)**  
The term describes a group of approximately 25 different types of tumors that are found in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood, lymph vessels, and connective tissues.
8. **Peripheral Neuropathy (Acute and Sub-Acute) [MUST OCCUR WITHIN 1 YEAR OF EXPOSURE AND RESOLVE WITHIN 2 YEARS OF THE DATE OF ONSET.]**  
A condition of the peripheral nervous system was approved in November 1996.
9. **Prostate Cancer**  
Cancer of the prostate gland was approved in November 1996.
10. **Diabetes Mellitus [MUST HAVE BEEN ON THE SOIL OF VIETNAM.]**  
Diabetes is characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to process the hormone insulin. More than 90 percent of the 16 million diabetics in the United States are categorized as Type-II, which occurs primarily in adults. Diabetes is the sixth leading cause of death and the leading cause of blindness in the United States.
11. **Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia [FINAL RULES PENDING]**  
CLL is a disease that progresses slowly with increasing production of white blood cells. Approved 1/2004.
12. **Spina Bifida**  
A very serious condition of the nervous system where the vertebral column of a developing fetus fails to close.
13. **Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Born with Certain Birth Defects.**  
VA identifies the birth defects as those that are associated with the service of the mother in Vietnam and resulted in permanent physical or mental disability.

## Is Compensation or Medical Care Available?

Yes, compensation is available from the VA for any of the conditions shown above. You may also be eligible for health care for conditions not currently associated with herbicide exposure if you had Vietnam service.

## How Do I Get Help Or More Information?

Veterans Service Representatives are available to discuss this or any veterans' issue with you.

Veterans Service Representatives are available to discuss claims or any veterans' issues with you. Call your closest office for the nearest location to you:

Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Victorville: (760) 843-2790 San Bernardino: (909) 387-5516 Chino: (909) 465-5241

Part time offices in: Barstow, Yucca Valley and 29 Palms.